

## Letter from Alexander Melville Bell and Eliza Symonds Bell to Alexander Graham Bell, February 12, 1880

Melville House, Tutelo Heights, Brantford, Ont., February 12th, 80. (No envelope) My dear Aleck,

The accompanying letter from our good friend Miss Fuller was received by Papa yesterday, and he thinks I had better forward it to you, for your information and consideration. Papa has answered the letter, telling Miss F. that our movements are entirely dependent upon yours, and your own plans for a residence are not as far as we know decided upon. At any rate that we think a sea-side locality might be preferable for ourselves. You can not what she says, and tell us what you think. We hope Charley reached you without any mishap, and that you may find his being with you a mutually advantageous arrangement.

He was only a few hours at home but he drove over with his father and mother just to shake hands with us. Lillie and her three children are at Uncle David's, and in a few days we expect her to stay with us for a short time. Of course there has not been time since her husband's departure for her to get a letter from him. I doubt if she quite relishes the idea of living in Ottawa. We have had some alterations made in your bathroom here, from which the steam from the hot water tank is now excluded and carried into the conservatory. We trust that dear Mabel has not suffered from the excitement of her sister's wedding, 2 and that you, you good fellow, are as well, successful and happy as you deserve to be. We too are happy in the possession of such a son. God bless you both and your little darlings!

Your affectionate Mother, Eliza G. Bell,

My dear Al.,

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Your gracious gift to Ker has enabled him to return what I had advanced in his necessity. He was very harshly and cruelly treated. Political friends have now provided him with temporary employment, which will likely end in a permanent post. He will, I trust, profit by the lesson he has had to keep his expenses within the limits of his income in future. I invested \$700.00 of your \$1500. in mortgage dated January 10th, interest 8% payable yearly and I had arranged to invest the remaining \$800.00 in a similar way when Ker's affairs compelled me to postpone. I shall no doubt in a few days get this taken up. In the meantime it draws 4% in the Bank. We are in daily expectation of hearing news from Washington! The Boston arrangement remains in statu quo.

Love to Mabel, Elsie and yourself.

Telegraph the happy event!

Your affectionate father, Alex. Melville Bell.